

IN THE CLAIMS:

1(currently amended). A walking support for a leg, the support comprising:

- a) a boot portion for receiving a foot;
- b) a subfloor portion;
- c) a pair of elongate tubular members affixed to, and extending upwards from, the subfloor portion;
- d) the boot portion slidably mounted on the exterior of the elongate tubular members for free vertical translatory motion thereon;
- e) a spring element freely movable within each elongate tubular member; and
- f) a pair of elongate elements, each elongate element having a first end provided with means for mounting on a leg below the knee, and a second end constructed for being slidably received within the elongate tubular member atop the spring element , so that when the first ends are mounted on the leg and the foot is in the boot, walking forces will be absorbed by the second ends compressing the spring elements.

2(original). The walking support according to claim 1 in which the spring elements are gas springs.

3(original). The walking support according to claim 1 in which the spring elements are elastomeric springs.

4(original). The walking support according to claim 1 in which the spring elements are coil springs.

5(currently amended). The walking support according to claim 1 constructed so that the elongate elements may be removed from the remainder of the apparatus by unfastening the boot from the foot and lifting them from the elongate tubular members, and the support may be reassembled without adjustment by inserting the foot in the boot and the elongate elements in the elongate tubular members.

6(original). The walking support according to claim 1 further comprising a resilient structure interposed between the boot portion and the subfloor portion.

7 (currently amended). A walking support for a leg, the support comprising:

- a) a boot portion for receiving a foot;
- b) a subfloor portion;
- c) a pair of elongate tubular members affixed to, and extending upward from, the subfloor portion;

d) the boot portion slidably mounted on the exterior of the elongate tubular members for free vertical translatory motion thereon;

e) a gas spring freely movable within each elongate tubular member; and

f) a pair of elongate elements, each elongate element having a first end provided with means for mounting on a leg below the knee, and a second end constructed for being slidably received within the elongate tubular member atop the gas spring element, so that when the first ends are mounted on the leg and the foot is in the boot, walking forces will be absorbed by the second ends compressing the gas springs. .

8(currently amended). The walking support according to claim 7 constructed so that the elongate elements may be removed from the remainder of the apparatus by unfastening the boot from the foot and lifting them from the elongate tubular members, and the support may be reassembled without adjustment by inserting the foot in the boot and the elongate elements in the elongate tubular members.

9(original). The walking support according to claim 8 further comprising a resilient structure interposed between the boot portion and the subfloor portion.

10(original). The walking support according to claim 7 further comprising a resilient structure interposed between the boot portion and the subfloor portion.

11(currently amended). A walking support for a leg, the support comprising:

- a) a boot portion;
- b) a subfloor portion;
- c) a resilient structure interposed between the boot portion and the subfloor portion to keep the area therebetween free of foreign items;
- d) a pair of elongate tubular members affixed to, and extending upwards from, the subfloor portion;
- e) the boot portion slidably mounted on the exterior of the elongate tubular members for free vertical translatory motion thereon;
- f) a gas spring element freely movable within each elongate tubular member;
- g) a pair of elongate elements, each elongate element having a first end provided with means for mounting on a leg below the knee, and a second end constructed for being slidably received within the elongate tubular member atop the gas spring element so that the elongate elements may be removed from the remainder of the apparatus by unfastening the

boot from the foot and lifting them from the elongate tubular members, and the support may be reassembled without adjustment by inserting the foot in the boot and the elongate elements in the elongate tubular members; and

h) the gas springs being freely replaceable when the elongate elements are removed from the elongate tubular elements.

12(original). The support according to claim 11 in which the subfloor portion has an arcuate bottom surface.

13(currently amended). The support according to claim 11 further comprising adjustment means for orienting the elongate tubular elements so that they are parallel to one another.

14(currently amended). A walking support for a leg, the support comprising:

- a) a boot portion;
- b) a subfloor portion;
- c) a resilient structure interposed between the boot portion and the subfloor portion;
- d) a pair of elongate tubular members affixed to, and extending upwards from, the subfloor portion;
- e) the boot portion slidably mounted on the exterior of the elongate tubular members for free vertical translatable motion thereon; and
- f) a pair of elongate elements, each elongate element having a first end provided with means for mounting on a leg below the knee, and a second end constructed for being slidably received within the elongate tubular member atop the gas spring element so that the elongate elements may be removed from the remainder of the apparatus by unfastening the boot from the foot and lifting them from the elongate tubular members, and the support may be reassembled without adjustment by inserting the foot in the boot and the elongate elements in the elongate tubular members.

15(previously presented). The support according to claim 14 in which the subfloor portion has a resilient arcuate bottom surface.

16(currently amended). The support according to claim 15 further comprising adjustment means for orienting the elongate tubular elements so that they are parallel to one another.

17(currently amended). The support according to claim 14 further comprising adjustment means for orienting the elongate tubular elements so that they are parallel to one another.

18(previously presented). The support according to claim 14 in which the resilient structure includes compression springs.

19(previously presented). The support according to claim 18 in which the subfloor portion has a resilient arcuate bottom surface.

20(currently amended). The support according to claim 18 further comprising adjustment means for orienting the elongate tubular elements so that they are parallel to one another.